

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-16 are pending. Claims 1-3 and 9-11 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants believe the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Venkatesh et al. (US 6,397,292).

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 9 as amended are novel and patentable over Venkatesh et al. because, for instance, Venkatesh et al. does not teach or suggest deciding that data regarding at least one IP address set for the channel control portions to provide NAS service to the information processors are stored in a shared volume which is a storage region logically set on physical storage regions provided by the storage devices and which can be accessed commonly by any other channel control portion belonging to the same group to carry out fail-over.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 2 and 10 as amended are novel and patentable over Venkatesh et al. because, for instance, Venkatesh et al. does not teach or suggest deciding that data regarding at least one IP address set for the channel control portions to provide NAS service to the information processors are stored in a shared memory which is contained in the storage device controller and which can be accessed commonly by the channel control portions to carry out fail-over.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 3 and 11 as amended are novel and patentable over Venkatesh et al. because, for instance, Venkatesh et al. does not teach or suggest sending data regarding at least one IP address set for the channel control portions to provide NAS service to the information processors to another channel control portion belonging to the same group, through a network connecting the channel control portions to one another, to carry out fail-over.

Venkatesh discloses a data processing system including a storage controller having two channel adapters 41-42, two disk adapters 43-44, and a shared memory 47 (see Fig. 1). As shown in the flowchart of programming of the storage controller for accessing the disk arrays in Fig. 9, write data or read data is stored in the shared memory 47. Venkatesh at column 4, lines 47-61 states:

As shown in FIG. 1, the storage controller 23 has dual redundant data paths 26, 27 and multiple redundant programmed processors in order to continue disk access operations in the event of a failure of any single data path or processor. . . . The shared memory 47 provides a cache memory 48 and cache index 49 to reduce loading on the disk arrays 24, 25 when the host processors 21, 22 make repeated accesses to the same logical data tracks.

In other words, Venkatesh fails to disclose to store data regarding at least one IP address set for the channel control portions to provide NAS service to the information processors, to carry out fail-over.

For at least the foregoing reasons, independent claims 1-3 and 9-11, and dependent claims 4-8 and 12-16, are novel and patentable over Venkatesh.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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